

REPORT
BTF Transition Committee
Meeting 01/17/08 at 3:30 PM
(conference call)

NOTE: Regular text notes that which was previously designed. Bold/Italic text are the questions which needed to be addressed. Italic text notes the conclusions reached at this conference call meeting.

SUMMER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Parameters

What age parameters might be set?

The committee recommends an age range of 9 thru teens

How will participants be recruited?

The committee recommends recruitment of participating students through IEP teams, ListSrvs, schools, RSB/CS, consumer groups

Resource needs: Two major resources are needed -

1. Staff

a. credentials required

What credentials/certificates, will instructional staff be required to hold?

The Committee recognizes that supervisory staff must have teaching (etc) credentials and pass a background check (2-6 weeks for background check).

How may volunteers (paid, unpaid, and borrowed) staff be incorporated into the program?

All staff (paid or volunteer) must either be credentialed or under the supervision of the credentialed staff. Interns can be used but must be under supervisor with credentials. All paid and volunteer staff must undergo a background check (takes 2-6 weeks).

b. recruitment

How will staff be recruited for the program?

Intent forms will need to begin to be compiled as early as the beginning of the calendar year. MSB would begin with its own staff but outside recruitment is also possible with the same pay and background check requirements.

What contractual/employment measures will be necessary?

No contracts will be necessary but intent forms would assist in making sure needed positions are filled.

What would be the timelines for recruitment?

Recruitment should begin at the beginning of the calendar year and end when all positions were filled following background checks (2-6 weeks to conduct a background check).

c. Remuneration for staff time

What wages/salary will be paid for staff time?

Standard rates presently used to pay existing MSB ESY staff. MSB would not be able to pay more than those rates. Unpaid staff may gain needed experience, practicum, or other such non-monetary remuneration.

Can practicum experience be incorporated into the staffing efforts?

Yes, a good place for practicum experience and practical experience but such personnel would need to be under the direct supervision of paid, credentialed staff and undergo a background check.

What training opportunities may be available for LEA staff during the program?

A good place to include last week PD opportunities for LEA staff. LEAs would have to arrange this with their staff.

2. Financial resources

What General Revenue or other state appropriated funds might be accessed?

None at this time. A special request would need to be made through the normal appropriation process. Because MSB is a state operated program, it is subject to the budgeting and appropriation process through the department, governor's office, and legislature. This would also include grants. A revolving account may be set up for this specific purpose, but this too has its restrictions. Fee for services cannot be relied upon to fund the first few years of these services because use will be low to begin with. Consumer groups may be able to assist with some expenses but not on an ongoing basis. Still, money which comes to the program outside the appropriation process will be placed in the state's general revenue unless a revolving account is set up for these purposes.

What kind of cooperative efforts between state agencies (MSB/DESE and RSB) and local agencies can be developed?

All funds spent by MSB need to be appropriated by the legislature. Use of a revolving account mechanism needs to be researched. Other agencies (state, local, private) may provide loaned equipment and staff but staff will need to undergo the background check.

Can fees be charged and used for expenses and if so, what needs to be done to set up such a system?

A revolving account may be possible but there needs to be more research into this possibility and feasibility. Even so, the committee agreed a fee for services basis, though may be viable later, would probably not be viable the first few years of the program.

Barriers:

What barriers need to be overcome to initiate the program?

Statutory

Need for appropriation for all expenditures

Financial

Will need an initial commitment of \$150,000.

The committee meeting ceased at this point and barriers will have to be examined at the next meeting of the committee.

Accreditation

How will these barriers be addressed?

Limitations of the Task Force and its members

Recruitment of allies

Coordination of efforts

Time Frames:

When do we wish to initiate this program?

The committee recommends no sooner than the summer of 2009.

What are the minimum plans needed to initiate the first program?

20 student participants and \$150,000 for minimum staff pay and expenses.

What intermediate time frames are needed to make this happen?